



Wilmington Convention Center

Highlights

- To be built and operated without property tax dollars
- Site includes park space on the waterfront
- First rate, full service high quality hotel included in project
- Largest convention center on North Carolina coast
- Private developer assumes all profits or losses
- Center to be regional facility with assured public access

What

- Approximately 120,000 square-foot convention center, including 56,000 square feet of meeting space
- 270-room Marriott Hotel beside center
- 100-room expansion of existing Best Western Hotel
- Convention Center funded by 3% hotel room tax
- Hotel paid for by developer
- 580-space parking deck

Why

- Approximately 1,200 additional jobs to economy
- Regional attraction
- Additional tax base -\$600,000 annually City, \$900,000 annually County

Private Investment

Marriott Hotel - \$46 million

Where

- 9-acre site just north of the existing Coastline Inn on Nutt Street

When

- Expect to break ground in 2006
- Expect to open in 2008

Information

- Mayor's Convention Center Task Force Chairman Dale Smith, 617-0277
- City of Wilmington Communications Office, 342-2736
- City's website at: www.wilmingtonnc.gov

Background

In December, City Council directed project development team to revise design to make it bigger, expandable and more aesthetically interesting.

Changes

- Added almost 10,000 square feet meeting space:
 - 2,000 square feet ballroom space
 - 5,000 square feet exhibit space
 - 2,700 square feet meeting rooms
 - Parking deck spaces reduced from 650 to 580
- Designed to accommodate future expansion.
- Future development site identified in previous design has been eliminated.
- Added aesthetic touches such as brick and limestone accents, change in roof line, to reflect input from Council and Mayor's Convention Center Task Force.

Costs

- Costs have increased from \$50 million to \$52 million to address Council and Task Force recommendations on design changes.
- This total includes cost of construction for convention center and parking deck, design fees and start-up/move-in expenses.
- Costs independently verified by construction management firm and city consultant.
- Construction of convention center still funded by hotel room tax – revenues from hotel room taxes have increased.

Future

- Project moving forward is contingent upon positive resolution of pending lawsuit.
- City Council expected to vote on design at its Jan. 17 or Feb. 7 meeting.